

8. OCCURRENCE OF *CHRYSOCOLAPTES FESTIVUS* IN GOA<sup>1</sup>PARAG RANGNEKAR<sup>2</sup> AND PANKAJ LAD<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>Accepted January 04, 2007<sup>2</sup>R-1, S-3 Technopark, Near Landscape City, Chogm Road, Alto-Porvorim 403 521, Goa, India. Email: paragrangnekar@yahoo.com<sup>3</sup>M-11, Housing Board Colony, Vidyanagar, Gogal, Margao, Goa 403 601, India. Email: pankajrlad@gmail.com

Goa is known to be a bird watcher's paradise with varied eco-zones spread over a rather small area with good accessibility. The number of European bird watchers visiting Goa is increasing rapidly day by day. The birdlife of Goa was not well documented till recently with the exception of Grubh and Ali (1976), Rane (1981, 1982), Saha and Dasgupta (1992) and recently Heinz Lainer (1999a, 1999b). Lainer (2004) is a well-researched work of over 15 years and covers 420 species of birds from the coast to the dense forests.

With so much varied avifauna it is not a surprise that a few species could be missed, especially if the species is "widely but sparsely distributed" (Ali and Ripley 1987).

"*C. festivus* is widely but sparsely distributed everywhere: practically all peninsular India with the exception of Sind, West Rajasthan, Kutch and most of Saurashtra in the West, and Assam and E. Pakistan in the East..." (Ali and Ripley 1987). It is described as "widespread" in India by Grimmett *et al.* (1999).

P. Boddaert's 'TABLE DES PLANCHES ENLUMINEEZ D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE DE M.D' AUBENTON' describes Goa as the type locality of the Black-shouldered Woodpecker, *Picus festivus* (= *Chrysocolaptes festivus*). Later, J.F. Gmelin in his SYSTEMA NATURAE (1788-1789) described the Black-shouldered Woodpecker as *Picus goensis* (= *Chrysocolaptes festivus*) (Lainer 2004). Since then, the Black-shouldered Woodpecker does not find mention in any of the publications on the birdlife of Goa except for Lainer (2004), which describes the bird in the Appendix, and contains unconfirmed records of birds that are difficult to identify in the field or are frequently misidentified, or are contentious for various other reasons. He describes it as being "possibly" a rare resident.

This report is an attempt to emphasize and confirm the occurrence of *C. festivus* in Goa. *C. festivus* was first recorded by us on April 23, 2000 at Keri village in the Sattari taluka of North Goa at the foothills of the Sahyadris, when a pair was recorded perching on a topmost dry branch of a *Atrocarpus heterophyllus* tree. Subsequently, it was again recorded in

**Table 1:** Incidence of sightings and activity of the *Chrysocolaptes festivus* in Goa

Sr. No.	Date	Area	Sex	Activity
1.	April 23, 2000	Keri, Sattari	1 Pair	Perched on a dry branch of <i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> tree
2.	January 29, 2003	Keri, Sattari	1 Female	Foraging on <i>Delonix regia</i> in a mixed hunting party
3.	March 2004	Keri, Sattari	1 Male and 2 Females	Foraging
4.	June 26, 2004	Keri, Sattari	1 Female	Perched on a dry branch of an unidentified tree by the road side
5.	July 02, 2004	Keri, Sattari	1 Pair	Foraging on <i>Acacia auriculiformes</i>

the same village a few kilometres away from the original sighting (Table 1).

The species can be easily identified from the characteristic and prominent black "V" mark on the back, the nape and upper back being white. Another characteristic feature of the species is the yellow crest of the female. The call is also distinct from that of the Golden-backed Woodpeckers.

All the sightings are from only one locality, including one mentioned by Lainer (2004), and records spanning from January to July indicate to it being a breeding resident with a very restricted range.

Incidentally, the area falls on the outskirts of the newly declared Mhadei Wildlife Sanctuary. A year long survey of the Sanctuary by the first author between 2002 and 2003 did not reveal the species. This absence suggests to it being scarce in numbers.

This report would add to the growing list of bird from Goa and at the same time open avenues for more detailed studies of individual species and the avifauna of the State as a whole.

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## 9. THE LONGEVITY RECORD OF GREATER FLAMEBACK *CHRYSOCOLAPTES LUCIDUS*<sup>1</sup>

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The longevity of many migratory waders has been reasonably well-documented as these birds have been ringed in large numbers (Ali and Hussain 1981; Balachandran 1998). Twelve wader species were recaptured after more than 10 years at Point Calimere. One Garganey *Anas querquedula* ringed at Point Calimere, and one individual each of Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* and Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* ringed at Bharatpur were shot in Russia, 10 years after ringing. One Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus* was recaptured after 22 years at Point Calimere (Balachandran and Hussain 1994). Longevity records for Indian birds are rare due to insufficient long-term bird ringing studies in India, in a particular area. However, bird ringing studies of the Bombay Natural History Society at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, after a gap of 16 years in 1999 under the Bird Banders Training have helped to document an interesting longevity record for the resident Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*. During a nine day bird banding programme, organized in November 1999 at Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary, 101 individuals of 32 species were caught and ringed. Among these, the only Greater Flameback caught had a ring (B-45025) on its left leg. The earlier banding data on the ring indicated that it was

ringed in May 1983 from the same locality. The time lapse between capture and recapture was 16 years, 5 months and 24 days. In India, this is the longest longevity record for any passerine bird based on the capture-recapture method.

It is worth mentioning here that 530 birds of 72 species were ringed during 1983 at Parambikulam in 45 days. Of the 530 birds, three Greater Flameback were caught. This recapture shows the territoriality and site-fidelity of this species as it was recaptured from the same locality which has undergone tremendous changes due to increased developmental activities.

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## 10. OCCURRENCE OF *LANIUS CRISTATUS LUCIONENSIS* IN THE WESTERN GHATS, KERALA<sup>1</sup>

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The status of *Lanius cristatus lucionensis* in India was given by Ali and Ripley (1983) as 'winter visitor to Andaman and Nicobar Islands'. Later it was found to be a

regular winter visitor to south-east India based on the records at Sriharikota Island (Mohapatra and Santharam 1992), and ringing data of ten individuals at Point Calimere during